

Animal Resources Team Newsletter

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Editor

We hope you found the first issue of the *ART Newsletter* informative, and that you now have a better understanding of how the NIH Continuity of Operations Plan (NIH COOP) and the Disaster Planning Animal Advisory Committee (DPAAC) can assist your institute/facility in preparing for all levels of emergencies.

All ICs have developed, and will provide to the OACU, a rough draft of their emergency preparedness and response plan. We encourage every individual to review and become intimately familiar with their respective IC plan. Please call Kerry Taylor at 6-5424 if you have specific questions and/or do not know which ART member has been assigned to help you develop your institute's plan.

The NIH AAALAC Site Visit is just a few weeks away, and we feel confident that the five site visit teams will be interested in reviewing the overall NIH plan from OACU, and most likely the IC disaster plan as the review each facility.

Having a plan in place is only the first step. Supporting documents are just as important. Have appropriate SOPs been developed? Are personnel trained on SOPs and how to respond to the various emergencies as outlined in your institute's plan? Are the disaster response plan, associated checklists and guidelines posted and quickly accessible in case of an emergency? Are emergency supplies and equipment identified and staged for ready access? Is a list of emergency points-of-contact for all aspects of assistance prepared and posted in common areas? As you can see, a great deal of effort and resources must be devoted to developing, implementing,

reviewing, and revising your IC's emergency preparedness and response plan.

Please call Kerry Taylor at 6-5424 if you have specific questions and/or do not know which ART member has been assigned to help you develop your institute's plan.

REMINDERS

- 🌐 Continue developing your institute's emergency preparedness and response plan, and provide training as necessary. Think AAALAC !!
- 🌐 Start preparing your staff and administration (especially for funding) to deal with inclement weather this winter. SOPs specifically addressing essential personnel, lodging for employees, emergency supplies and equipment, etc. should be developed.
- 🌐 Although there does not seem to be quite the excitement about Y2K now, we should continue assessing our facilities' readiness and compliance.
- 🌐 Always maintain accurate training records – subject(s) and attendees.

WATER SHORTAGE

Part of the Emergency Handbook (recently provided to all ICs) includes instructions for calculating the amount of water needed in the event the water supply to a facility is lost. The importance of locating a readily available source of potable water was also stressed. Walkersville, Maryland (just outside of Frederick) recently had a good deal of their water source contaminated by

raw sewage from lines fractured during construction blasting. Local restaurants have been closed for well over a week. Imagine the effect such a situation would have on your facility? Are you prepared?

INTERESTING NEWS

A recent *Frederick News Post* article indicated that the Y2K compliant status of thousands of the 911 answering sites is still largely unknown. Federal Communications Commissioner, Michael K. Powell, warned that the 911 emergency system “is especially vulnerable to year 2000 problems because it generally relies on sophisticated computer technology and then interconnects many private networks with different types of equipment.” Officials around the country say their systems will be compliant by New Year’s, but can we be sure? Ensure your IC personnel emergency response rosters are up to date.

NEW FIRE ALARM SYSTEM

Building 10 has a new fire alarm system. “What’s so special about that?” you ask. We have all experienced fire drills and glitches in the various facility alarms and/or communication systems during practice drills. This new, state-of-the-art system has some fairly sophisticated upgrades that can improve the level of safety for all employees working in the Clinical Center, as well as patients and visitors to the facility. The new system can perform three important functions simultaneously:

- It automatically instructs occupants by a voice message on what to do in a fire-emergency.
- It alerts the NIH Fire Department of the exact location of the alarm and identifies the type of device that initiated the alarm, and
- It allows orderly evacuation in only those areas that are in alarm.

The system can be activated manually, by pull stations located at designated exits, and automatically by smoke detectors and sprinkler system activation. For more information, call the Fire Prevention Section, Emergency Management Branch, Division of Public Safety, ORS at 6-0487.

RESOURCE QUESTIONNAIRE

As the ART develops additional resources and references to assist the institutes in the development of their respective emergency preparedness and response plan, you will be asked to provide information that will allow more expedient and efficient distribution of resources during an emergency. You will receive a questionnaire in the near future focused on resource planning during a disaster. What would you anticipate as potential requirements? What equipment, space or caging could you possibly loan to other IC programs during an emergency? Please give some honest thought to resource allocation for our upcoming survey.

?? DO YOU KNOW ??

- ☛ Your IC Animal Resources Team members?
 - ☛ The on/off-campus phone number for police/fire/rescue emergencies?
 - ☛ The responsible individual for developing your individual IC emergency preparedness response plan?
 - ☛ The location of your IC emergency plan?
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!! HELP !!

We solicit your input for future issues of the newsletter. Submit your ideas or requests to Dusty Rhodes (2-3188).

